

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Information from the US-Soviet Zonal Border

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REMARKS

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1. It was learned between 1 and 5 January 1951 that Soviet troops in battalion strength allegedly arrived in Sonneberg in early January. The troops were to be quartered along the zonal border in Kreis Sonneberg. Various houses were evacuated in Lichtenhain, allegedly to quarter a company. A Soviet detachment of one officer and nine EM had been quartered at the Kalte Kueche Inn, which is in Spechtsbrunn, Thuringia, in the area of Tettau, Upper Franconia. This detachment left on 3 January. There were no changes in the detachment of 60 to 70 Soviets stationed at Spechtsbrunn. From 80 to 100 Soviets arrived at Lehesten. They were quartered in three houses vacated by civilians.
2. On 2 and 3 January, a Volkspolizei Kommando of about 30 men was transferred from Hasenthal, Thuringia, allegedly to Lichtentann near Saalfeld. About seven Soviets were subsequently stationed in Hasenthal. About 40 German police were said to be billeted in private quarters in Lichtentanne near Probstzella, Thuringia.
3. On 2 January, about five Soviet officers and 70 EM were quartered at the Frey inn in Jagdshof, 6 km east of Sonneberg. On 3 January, the Soviet commandant of Koepfelsdorf was replaced by an officer whose name and rank were not identified. On the same day, about 40 German police were quartered at the Kreuzer Factory in Unterlind. The castle was evacuated for the quartering of Soviet soldiers. Two private houses in Judenbach had to be vacated on short notice for the quartering of Soviet soldiers, but no soldiers had arrived by 3 January. A house in Adelshausen, previously occupied by Soviet soldiers, was vacated. Volkspolizei were allegedly to be quartered there. Soviet soldiers and Volkspolizei of undetermined strength moved into quarters in Streudorf on 4 January. Sixty police arrived in Adelshausen near Heldburg on 3 January. Sixty police arrived at Eishausen on 30 December 1950.
4. Considerable changes in the Soviet occupation of the zonal border have been effected since the beginning of 1951. Besides local changes, reinforcements of border troops have been observed. The regrouping was not completed by 10 January. The following detailed observations were made:

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Lo, H, Bern

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- a. The border kommandatura at Forbis (M 52/C 81) was moved to Teistungen. From 60 to 80 Soviets were stationed at Teistungen.
- b. The border kommandatura at Ellrich was transferred to an unknown post.
- c. At Rohrberg, which had not been occupied by the Soviets, three houses were requisitioned as billets for a Soviet border guard detachment.
- d. A border guard detail of one officer and 20 RM was quartered at Siemerode, which had not been occupied by the Soviets for a long time.
- e. The border guard detachment of one officer and 8 RM stationed at Glasehausen was increased to 20 men.
- f. At Ecklingrode, 3½ km east of Duderstadt, which had so far been occupied by a detail of about eight men, quarters were requisitioned for another 20 to 25 Soviets.
- g. A detail of 35 Soviets was quartered at Zwinge, formerly occupied by 15 Soviet soldiers. Another 100 soldiers are expected to arrive.

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- 5. Up to 10 January, no observations of military interest had been made in Land Mecklenburg in the Ratzeburg-Schoenberg area as far as Lake Ratzeburg. *

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- * ~~Comment.~~ Contrary to conditions along the British-Soviet zonal border, which have been constant for a long time, changes in the disposition of Soviet Army units employed for border guard duties and of the German Grenzpolizei Kommandos have been under way along the US-Soviet zonal border since late December 1950. ~~It is not yet clear whether only a regrouping of units is concerned or whether reinforcements are also being sent to the border. There is a possibility that the observations reported are connected with a tightening of security measures along the border in the Eighth Gds Army area. The headquarters that has arrived in Oberhof may be in charge of all these measures.~~

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